

# Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

## Compact Commissioner Biography

**John I. “Don” Kaminar** is Arkansas’ compact commissioner for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. He chairs the commission’s Rules Committee and is a member of the Executive Committee.

Kaminar served as a teacher and administrator in Arkansas schools for 15 years before joining the Arkansas Department of Education as a curriculum specialist. In his current role as security and loss prevention manager, he oversees the department’s emergency preparedness program.

Kaminar began his military service in 1983 after graduating from Texas A. & M. University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in foreign languages and a commission as a Second Lieutenant of infantry in the Regular Army. A paratrooper and Ranger, he served an initial assignment in Germany, followed by 6 years with the 101st Airborne Division. He left the regular Army in 1993 to become an educator but continued to serve for the next 20 years in the Army Reserve. His reserve assignments included units in North Little Rock, Arkadelphia and Oklahoma City and culminated with his assignment as State Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for Arkansas. He retired from the Army in 2013 with the rank of colonel.

During his 30 years in uniform, Kaminar served with the international peacekeeping mission on the Egyptian-Israeli border and in combat in the Persian Gulf War and the War in Afghanistan. He has commanded units at company, battalion, and brigade levels and has served on the general staffs of the 90th Regional Readiness Command, the 95th Division, and the 101st Airborne Division. He holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is a graduate of the Army’s Command and General Staff College and the Air Force’s Air Command and Staff College. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The son, son-in-law and father of combat veterans, Kaminar resides in Bryant with his wife, Toni.